

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 305806
ORIGIN EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ONY-00 /013 R

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-----130982 230530Z /11

R 230147Z DEC 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: ENRG, ID

SUBJECT: ENERGY UPDATE

1. IRS RULING - GEORGE BENSON, PERTAMINA REP REPORTS ON CONVERSATION YESTERDAY WITH CARL NORDBERG, ATTORNEY FOR NATOMAS. IRS HAD MADE FOUR SUGGESTIONS FOR MINOR CHANGES IN NATOMAS DRAFT CONTRACT CHARACTERIZED BY NORDBERG AS "NIT PICKS". HOWEVER, AFTER FURTHER CONSULTATIONS WITH COMPANY OFFICIALS, MODIFICATIONS WERE AGREED TO AND THIS WAS TRANSMITTED TO IRS BY LETTER AT 4:00 P.M. DEC 21. BENSON REPORTS OPTIMISM THAT AGREEMENT NOW REACHED AT LAST. IRS EXPECTS (HOPES) TO COMPLETE ITS REVIEW BY JANUARY 1 AND PUBLISH RULING IN FEDERAL REGISTER. WHEN ASKED WHETHER THE FOUR MINOR CHANGES IN CONTRACT WOULD AFFECT AGREEMENT ALREADY REACHED WITH GOI BENSON INDICATED
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NOT.

2. LNG DECISION - THERE WERE HOPES THAT A MAJOR ROADBLOCK TO THE DOE DECISION HAD BEEN REMOVED BY A COMPROMISE IN CONGRESSON DOMESTIC NATURAL GAS PRICES. THIS WAS REPORTED BY THE PRESS DECEMBER 21 BUT THEN COMPROMISE FELL APART UNDER NEW PRESSURES FROM CONSUMER INTERESTS. FURTHER

ACTION NOW LIKELY ONLY AFTER FIRST OF YEAR.

3. TAX DEFERRAL - IN WASHINGTON POST, DEC 21 HOBART
ROWEN REPORTS ON NEW TAX PROPOSAL PRESIDENT WILL PRESENT
TO CONGRESS NEXT YEAR. MANY OF THE REFORMS DISCUSSED IN
THE PAST WILL NOT BE INCLUDED IN THE BILL. ADMINISTRATION
IS STILL EXPECTED TO RECOMMEND A PHASE-OUT OF BOTH
SPECIAL EXPORT CREDITS AND OF DEFERRAL OF TAXES ON FOREIGN
EARNINGS. THE PHASE OUT PERIOD REPORTEDLY HAS NOT YET
BEEN DECIDED. VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AGREEMENT DRAFT, CONTRACTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 23-Dec-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE305806
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: EJCHESKY:LGR
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770479-0006
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19771221/aaaaarez.tel
Line Count: 72
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: ebb9cafd-c188-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: STADIS, ONLY
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: STADIS
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: STADIS, ONLY
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 137943
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ENERGY UPDATE
TAGS: ENRG, ID, (BENSON, GEORGE), (NORDBERG)
To: JAKARTA
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/ebb9cafd-c188-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009